GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1647
ANSWERED ON:07.03.2001
UNTOUCHABILITY
AMAR ROY PRADHAN

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether representations have been received during 2000 by the Government from All India Dr. Ambedkar SCs/STs welfare Association/Federation stating that a sample survey on untouchability (SC-ST peopl

(e) was conducted in 1155 villages throughout India in which it was observed that in 613 villages these people are denied access to public well and in 821 villages they are denied access to public temples; and

(b) if so, the other points raised by the Federation and action taken by the Government on each of them, till date?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SMT. MANEKA GANDHI)

(a) Yes Sir.

(b)
(i) A copy of the representation has been forwarded to the States/UTs and Central Ministries concerned for appropriate action. So far as abolition of Untouchability is concerned, under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme implemented by the Ministry, Central assistance is provided to the State Governments on 50:50 basis and to UnionTerritory Administrations on 100% basis for implementation of the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 and Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention ofAtrocities) Act, 1989 for taking measures which include provision of legal aid, appointment of officers for initiating or exercising supervision over prosecution, setting up of Committees and Special Courts, conducting periodic surveys andidentification of untouchability prone areas and relief and rehabilitation measures for the victims and/or their dependents.

The State Governments where pendency of cases is high, have beenrequested to establish exclusive Special Courts for expeditious disposal of cases registered.
The implementation of these Acts is being reviewed in meeting of the State Secretaries of Scheduled Castes Development and Social Welfare Department and the State Secretaries have been requested to take necessary action forimplementation of the Acts. Further the Chief Secretaries of States/UTs have beenrequested by the Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment for ensuring effective implementation of provisions of these Acts and polices as also the delivery of services and justice to the victims and target group. The matter has also been taken up by the Minister of State for Social Justice & Empowerment with theChief Ministers of all States/UTs.

(ii) As regards other issues concerning Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment,revision of rates of Post Matric Scholarship for Scheduled Castes and ScheduledTribes students has been processed. In order to effectively implement the scheme of Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers, the Ministry has taken up setting up ofSanitary Marts with the concerned State Governments which would be operated by Groups of scavengers. Dr. Ambedkar Foundation, is taking steps to acquire land forthe construction of Dr. Ambedkar Memorial.